

His Majesties
GRACIOUS
S P E E C H
Together with the
Lord Kepeers,
To both Houses of
PARLIAMENT,
On Wednesday the 13th of October, 1675.

Published by His Majesties Special Command.



LONDON,
Printed by the Assigns of John Bill and
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Kings most Excellent Majesty, 1675.

His Majesties

GRACIOUS

STEPHEN

Together with the

Lord Rapers

To both Houses of

PARLIAMENT

On the 13th of October 1672

Presented to the Honorable House of Commons




Printed by J. Streater at the Sign of the Gun in St. Dunstons Church-yard in London

His Majesties
 GRACIOUS
 SPEECH
 To both Houses of
 PARLIAMENT

On Wednesday the 13th of October, 1679.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

 Meet you now with a more
 then usual concern for the
 vent of this Session, And I
 know it is but what may reason-
 ably be expected from that
 Care I owe to the preservation
 of the Government. The causes of the last
 Prorogation, as I for My part do not desire
 to remember, so I hope no man else will, unless
 it be to learn from thence, how to avoid the
 like occasions for the future, And I pray consi-
 der how fatal the consequences may be, and how
 little benefit is like to redound to the People
 by it: However, if any thing of that kind
 shall arise, I desire you would deferre those
 debates, till you have brought such publick
 Bills to perfection as may conduce to the good

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and

and safety of the Kingdom; And particularly I recommend to you, whatever may tend to the Security of the Protestant Religion as it is now established in the Church of England.

I must likewise desire your assistance in some Supplies, as well to take off the Anticipations which are upon my Revenue, as for the building of Ships; and though the War has been the great cause of these Anticipations, yet I find by a late account I have taken of My Expences, that I have not been altogether so good an husband, as I might have been, and as I resolve to be for the future: Although at the same time I have had the satisfaction to find, that I have been far from such an extravagancy in My own Expence, as some would have the World believe. I am not ignorant, that there are many who would prevent the kindness of My Parliament to Me at this time; but I as well know that your affections have never failed me: And you may remember, it is now above Three years since I have asked you anything for My Own use.

The rest I refer to my Lord Keeper.

THE

THE
Lord Keepers
S P E E C H.

*My Lords, and you the Knights, Citizens, and
 Burgesses of the House of Commons.*



He Causes of this present Assembly, and the Reasons which have mov'd His Majesty to command your Attendance upon Him at this Time, are of the highest Importance.

The King resolves to enter into Terms of strictest Correspondence and Endearment with His Parliament, To take your Counsel in His most Weighty Affairs, To impart all His Cares to you, To acquaint you with all His Wants and Necessities, To offer you all that can yet be wanting to make you enjoy your selves, To Establish a right understanding Between Himself and His Three Estates, and Between the Estates themselves, To redress all your just complaints, and To put all His Subjects at Ease, as far as in Him lies, and can consist with the Honour and the Safety of the Government.

B

And

And having made all these Advances towards you, He doubts not but you will be have your selves like those that Deserve to be called the Kings Friends, and that you will put Him at Ease too.

There is no cause why any Fears of Religion or Liberty should Divert you.

For, His Majesty hath so often recommended to you the Considerations of Religion, so very often desir'd you to Assist Him in His Care and Protection of it. That the Defender of the Faith is become the Advocate for it too, and hath Left all those without Excuse who still remain under any kind of Doubts or Fears.

Again, The Care of your Civil Rights and Liberties hath been so much His Majesties, that the more you Reflect upon these Concerns, the more you will find your selves oblig'd to acknowledge His Majesties Tenderness of you, and Indulgence to you.

Search your own Annals, the Annals of those Times you Account most Happy, you will scarce find one Year without an Example of something more Severe, and more Extraordinary, then a whole Reign hath yet produced.

Peruse the Histories of Foreign Nations, and you shall find, Statues, and Altars too have

have been Erected to the Memories of those
Princes, whose Best Vertues never arrived to
half that Moderation, which We Live to
See and to Enjoy.

No King did ever meet a Parliament with
Juster cause of Confidence in their Affections.

And therefore His Majesty will not suffer
Himself to Doubt, but relies firmly upon it
that you will never forsake Him, when He is
under any kind of Difficulties. He doth as-
sure Himself that you will now think fit to
provide for His Honor and your own Safety,
by Helping him to pay some part of His
Debts, and to make His Navy as Great and as
Considerable, as it ought to be.

For the Greatness of a King is the Greatness
and the Safety of His People. The Springs
and Rivers which pay Tribute to the Ocean,
do not lessen but preserve themselves by that
contribution.

It is impossible that those Affections which
Piety and Allegiance first planted, which
Persecution could not abate, which the Gra-
cious influences of His Majesties happy Go-
vernment have hitherto encreased, should
now appear to Wither and Decay.

But then the best Indication of the Heart is
by the Hand. And because it is of infinite
moment to the Kings affairs that there should
be

Be a cheerfull concurrence to His Supply,
Therefore Let Mind and Heart both joyn
together in the Oblation, for that will make
it a Sacrifice Well pleasing indeed.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

The Happiness of this present Age, and
the Fate and Fortune of the Next too, is very
much in your Hands and at this Time, All
that you would desire to settle and improve,
All that you would wish to Secure and trans-
mit to your Posterities, may now be accom-
plished.

Would you Raise the due Estimation and
Reverence of the Church of *England* to its
just Height?

Would you Provide for the
Safety and Establishment of it?

Do there want any Laws to secure the
Peace and Quiet of the State?

Would you at once enrich and adorn this
Kingdom, by providing for the Extent and
improvement of Trade, by introducing New
and useful Manufactures, and by encourage-
ing those we have already?

Would you prevent all Frauds and Perju-
ries, all Delays and Abuses in the Admini-
stration of Justice?

Would you preserve a famous City from
being Depopulated by the Suburbs, Would
you

you **R**estrain the Excess of these New Build-
ings which begin to swarm with inhabitants
unknown?

All your Petitions of this kind will be
Grateful to the King, and you may with
ease offend all this and much more which
your Hearers will suggest to you. A
little Time will serve to make many excel-
lent Laws, and to give you the Honor of be-
ing the Repairs of all our Breaches, So as
that Time be wholly employ'd upon the
Publick, and not taken up by such Con-
siderations as are less Meritorious.

If therefore there be any without Doors,
that labour to disunite your Councils, or to
render them ineffectual, if they can hope
that the Occasions for this may arise from
some Differences within your selves, or
hopely by those Differences to disguise their
own disaffections to your good proceedings;
It is in your Power to defeat those Hopes, to
pull off this Disguise, and to secure a happy
Conclusion of this meeting, by Studying to
preserve a good Correspondence, and by a
Careful avoiding of all such Questions as are
Appropriate to the Suffle. And if ever there were a Time, when the
Gravity and the Counsel, the Wisdom, and
the good Temper of a Parliament, were ne-
cessary

cessary to support that Government which
only can support these Assemblies, certainly
this is the Hour.

You see with what Zeal the King hath re-
commended to you a good Agreement be-
tween your selves and that He doth it
with all the care and compassion, all the ear-
nestness and importunity, fit for so Great a
Prince to express, who would be very sorry
that any such misfortune as your Disagree-
ment, should either Deprive Him of your
Advice and Assistance, or His People of
those good Laws which He is ready to
Grant you.

There is no Other way Our Enemies
can think of, by which 'tis possible for this
Sessions to miscarry; For Fears and Jealou-
sies cannot enter here; Calumnies and Stan-
ders will find no place amongst Wise and
Good men.

They that use these Arts abroad, will
quickly be discredited, when the World
shall see the Generous effects of your con-
fidence. Men will Despair of Attempt-
ing any Disturbance in the State, when
they see Every Step that tends that way,
serves only to give you fresh Occasions to
testify your Loyalty and your Zeal.

You

You have all the Best of the World
to make men see this, ²⁸ ~~that you have~~
same Monarchy to assert, the same Church
to defend, the same Interest of Nobility
and Gentry to maintain, the same Excellent
King to support, ²⁹ ~~and the same~~
to contend against, ³⁰ ~~and the same~~

And now *My Lords and Gentlemen,*

Since the whole Session of Parliament is
in the Judgment and Construction of our
Law but as one Day, Let us all endeavour
that the morning of it, the first Entrance up-
on it, may be with such fair and such Aus-
picious Circumstances as may give the whole
Kingdom an assurance of a Bright and Cheer-
ful Day.

³¹ ~~Let~~ no ill Humors gather into Clouds
to darken or obscure it, for this Day is a Cri-
tical Day, and more depends upon that
Judgment of our Affairs which will be
made by it, then can easily be imagin'd.

It imports us therefore to take care that no
part of this Time be lost, Let every pre-
cious Minute of this Day be spent in recei-
ving such Acts of Grace and Goodness as are
ready to flow from the King, and in making
such Retributions for them as may become
the

the Grateful Hearts of the Best of Subjects,
to the Best of Kings, and to make men see this
So shall this Day become a Day of disap-
pointment and sorrow to our Enemies,
But ours and all good men a Glorious Day,
a Day of Triumph and Deliverance, a ve-
morable and a Joyful Day to this present and
to all future Generations.

And now M^{ty} Lord and Counsellors
Since the whole Session of Parliament is
in the Judgment and Construction of our
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